

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 171315Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3255

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

S E C R E T NAIROBI 5510

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINR, MOPS, UG

SUBJECT: REPORT OF COUP PLOT

1. CAPTAIN RICHARD OJOK, FORMERLY OF SIMBA BATTALUON AT MBARA, CALLED ON EMBOFF AUGUST 17 TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT IN ALLEGED PLOT TO OVERTHROW GENERAL AMIN. OJOK IS NEPHEW OF BRIGADIER OKOYA, WHO WAS MURDERED SEPTEMBER 1970.

2. ACCORDING OJOK, HE AND MAJOR ASWA OF UGANDAN AIR FORCE ARE LEADERS OF COUP PLOT SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 5. OJOK SAYS AMIN HAS DECLARED OCTOBER 5 A NATIONAL HOLIDAY AND THAT MILITARY WILL PARADE AND AIR FORCE WILL STAGE FLY-OVER FOR OCCASION. MAJOR ASWA REPORTEDLY ARRANGING LOAD AIRCRAFT WITH LIVE BOMBS AND AMMUNITION AND WOULD ATTACK KAMPALA DURING CELEBRATION.

3. OJOK SAYS ONLY MINOR POSSIBILITY OF RESISTANCE FROM AMIN'S "LOYAL" FORCES AS THEY PARTICULARLY DISSATISFIED WITH THE GENERAL. CONSPIRATORS CLAIM CORPS OF 100 LOYAL OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN WILL BE IN KAMPALA OCTOBER 5 AND PLAN TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH AND DESTROY THE CITY EVEN IF IT APPEARS HOPELESS.

4. OJOK INDICATES IF COUP SUCCESSFUL, OBOTE WOULD BE WELCOME RETURN UGANDA IF HE WOULD AGREE TO TWO-PARTY DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. CONSPIRATORS IN CONTACT WITH OBOTE.

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5. REASONS FOR PLOT, ACCORDING OJOK, ARE IMMENSE DISSATISFAC-

TION WITH AMIN ON PART MOST OF OFFICER CORPS UGANDAN MILITARY;
REVENGE FOR DEATH BRIGADIER OKOYA; AND FINALLY TO FORESTALL
BUILDUP SOVIET AND AL FATAH FORCES IN UGANDA.

6. CONSPIRATORS FEEL LIBYANS WILL SEND ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF
AMIN SHOULD ATTEMPT BE PROLONGED PAST OCTOBER 5. THEREFORE OJOK
REQUESTED AMERICAN WEAPONS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. EMBOFF
GAVE STANDARD REPLY OF USG NOT GETTING INVOLVED SUCH MATTERS.

7. OJOK, WHO HAS BEEN CASHIERED FROM ARMY, RETURNING KAMPALA
AUGUST 18 AND WILL BE LIVING AT STANDARD HOTEL. MADE PERSONAL
COMMENT THAT REGARDLESS OUTCOME COUP ATTEMPT, HE PERSONALLY IS
"GOING TO GET" AMIN AND SMARTS GUWEDEKO, COMMANDER UGANDAN AIR
FORCE.

8. COMMENT: OJOK MADE GOOD IMPRESSION OF EMBOFF. APPEARS WELL
EDUCATED, ARTICULATE AND WELL BAGANCED. OJOK PRODUCED NO
EVIDENCE OF HIS IDENTITY. CLAIMED TO HAVE STUDIED 1969 IN MOSCOW
MILITARY ACADEMY.LINDSTROM

NOTE BY OC/T: LIMDIS CAPTION DELETED, EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER
SS-O, MR. WRIGHT.

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NNN

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